

**Testimony of Monica Keady
before the Planning & Development Committee**

in support of
**HOUSE BILL 5492, AN ACT PROVIDING MUNICIPAL STORMWATER
AUTHORITIES WITH CERTAIN CORPORATE POWERS**

Submitted by
Monica Keady

March 16, 2012

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5492, An Act Providing Municipal Stormwater Authorities with Certain Corporate Powers. This bill will give pilot municipal stormwater authorities needed authorizations to borrow and bond, to hold property, to set and collect fees from users and to make improvements to infrastructure all for the sake of alleviating the problem of stormwater pollution.

Citizens of the state of Connecticut have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Long Island Sound. With that enjoyment comes the great responsibility of taking care of the environment within and around the sound. Stormwater pollution, a serious and growing problem, affects our waterways and Long Island Sound. Rainfall washes over impermeable surfaces picking up oils, pesticides and other chemicals. Runoff can overwhelm stormwater systems, causing flooding and overflows of sewage in our older cities like Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford. This mix of raw sewage and chemicals affects our rivers and is carried to Long Island Sound forcing closure of beaches and shellfish beds to protect human health.

Municipal stormwater authorities have been established in towns in Massachusetts, Vermont, and other states. They are a practical way for communities to plan for compliance with federal Clean Water Act requirements and for a future with heavier rains. These authorities can ensure that all landowners in town pay for their appropriate share of costs and can implement innovative methods like green infrastructure, which are more attractive, resilient and affordable than traditional concrete-and-pipe solutions.

My family has been personally affected by beach closures and neighborhood flooding. As municipalities struggle to improve infrastructure, homeowners should be asked to pay their share but should also be safeguarded from taking on too heavy a burden. Also, as more environmentally friendly systems are developed, municipalities should be able to work with the state to implement new technologies.

Please support HB 5492, which will help provide municipalities with the tools they need to prevent stormwater runoff pollution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Keady
3 Hillside Court
Darien, CT 06820